

THE DIPTERA (CALYPTRATAE) OF THE  
SANDWELL VALLEY, WEST BROMWICH

By M. G. BLOXHAM\*

(Continued from Vol. 93 page 188)

- Family MUSCIDAE  
Subfamily ACHANTHIPTERINAE  
*Achanthiptera rohrelliformis* (R.-D.) Several specimens 6, 7.
- Subfamily MUSCINAE  
Tribe MUSCINI  
*Polietes albolineata* (Fall.) Frequent 8.  
*P. lardaria* (Fabr.) Common 6 - 9.  
*Mesembrina meridiana* (L.) Common 6-9.  
*Dasyphora cyanella* (Mg.) Common 4-8.  
*Orthellia viridis* (Wied.) Common 6-9.  
*Morellia aenescens* (R.-D.) Common 7, 8.  
*M. hortorum* (Fall.) Common 5, 6.  
*M. simplex* (Loew) Common 8.  
*Musca(ss) domestica* (L.) Common 7-10.  
*Musca (Enumusca) autumnalis* (Deg.) Common 7-9.
- Tribe HYDROTAEINI  
*Azelia cilipes* (Hal.) 30-9-79.  
*A. macquarti* (Staeg) Common 5, 6.  
*A. zetterstedti* (Rond.) 8-7-80.  
*Alloeostylus diaphanus* (Wied.) Frequent 7-10.  
*A. simplex* (Wied.) Several specimens 9.  
*A. sudeticus* (Schnabl) Frequent 7-9.  
*Trichopticoides decolor* (Fall.) Common 5-7.  
*Drymeia hamata* (Fall.) Common 8.  
*Dendrophaonia querceti* (Bouche) Several specimens 8-10.  
*Ophyra leucostoma* (Wied.) Frequent 6-8.  
*Hydrotaea armipes* (Fall.) 29-5-80.  
*H. bimaculata* (Mg.) Frequent 6-9.  
*H. dentipes* (Fabr.) Common 4-8.  
*H. irritans* (Fall.) Common 7, 8.  
*H. occulta* (Mg.) Frequent 5.  
*H. parva* (Meade) 12-8-79.  
*H. similis* (Meade) Several specimens 9.  
*Muscina assimilis* (Fall.) Very common 6-9.  
*M. pabulorum* (Fall.) Common 6-9.  
*M. stabulans* (Fall.) Common 6-9.
- Subfamily PHAONIINAE  
*Lophosceles cinereiventris* (Zett.) Frequent 5-10.  
*L. mutatus* (Fall.) 1-5-80.  
*Phaonia basalis* (Zett.) Common 7, 8.  
*P. errans* (Mg.) Common 5, 6.

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- P. fuscata* (Fall.) 16-7-79.  
*P. gobertii* (Mik) Common 6-9.  
*P. halterata* (Stein) Common 5-8.  
*P. incana* (Wied.) Common 5-9.  
*P. pallida* (Fabr.) Frequent 6-8.  
*P. palpata* (Stein) Frequent 8-10.  
*P. perdita* (Mg.) Several specimens 5-7.  
*P. populi* (Mg.) Several specimens 9.  
*P. rufipalpis* (Macq.) Several specimens 8.  
*P. serva* (Mg.) several specimens 6.  
*P. signata* (Mg.) Common 6-10.  
*P. trimaculata* (Bouche) Several specimens 6, 7.  
*P. varaegata* (Mg.) Very common 4-9.  
*P. viarum* (R.-D.) Common 6-8.  
*P. vittifera* (Zett.) Several specimens 8.  
*Helina atripes* (Meade) Common 5-9.  
*H. depuncta* (Fall.) Common 7, 8.  
*H. duplicata* (Mg.) Common 5-10.  
*H. impuncta* (Fall.) Common 7-9.  
*H. laetifica* (R.-D.) Common 3-10.  
*H. lasiophthalma* (Macq.) Several specimens 7.  
*H. obscurata* (Mg.) 15-6-80.  
*H. pertusa* (Mg.) 30-8-79.  
*H. quadrum* (Fabr.) Several specimens 8, 9.  
*H. setiventris* (Ringd.) Common 7-9.  
*Gymnodia humilis* (Zett.) Several specimens 6.

## Subfamily MYDAEINAE

- Hebecnema affinis* (Malloch) Common 5-9.  
*H. nigricolor* (Fall.) 11-9-77.  
*H. umbratica* (Mg.) 29-5-80.  
*H. vespertina* (Fall.) Several specimens 4.  
*Mydaea ancilla* (Mg.) Frequent 7-10.  
*M. electa* (Zett.) 29-5-80.  
*M. scutellaris* (R.-D.) Common 7-10.  
*M. tincta* (Zett.) Several specimens 8.  
*M. urbana* (Mg.) Several specimens 9.  
*Myospila meditabunda* (Fabr.) Common 5-7.  
*Graphomya maculata* (Scop.) Common 7, 8.  
*G. picta* (Zett.) Several specimens 7, 8.

## Subfamily LIMNOPHORINAE

- Spilogona denigrata* (Mg.) Several specimens 7, 8.  
*S. vana* (Zett.) Several specimens 6-10.  
*Calliophrys riparia* (Fall.) Frequent 6-8.  
*Limnophora maculosa* (Mg.) Common 6-10.  
*Pseudolimnophora triangula* (Fall.) Common 6-9.  
*Lispe tentaculata* (Deg.) Several specimens 8.

## Subfamily COENOSIINAE

- Lispocephala alma* (Mg.) Several specimens 4, 5.  
*L. erythrocerca* (R.-D.) Several specimens 4.  
*Macrorchis meditata* (Fall.) Several specimens 7.  
*Allognota agromyzina* (Fall.) Common 7-10.

- Coenosia intermedia* (Fall.) Frequent 7.  
*C. lineatipes* (Zett.) Several specimens 9, 10.  
*C. tigrina* (Fabr.) Common 6-10.  
*C. tricolor* (Zett.) Common 6, 7.

### Discussion

#### Tachinidae

The locality seems to be attractive to tachinid flies and furnishes some interesting records. The fauna in general may be said to conform to expected patterns with regard to distribution data at present available, a good range of species, with a few northern and southern elements being present, examples of these being *Ernestia truncata*, a fly more common on northern moorlands and *Servillia ursina* which, together with *Medina luctuosa*, is approaching the northern limits of its range here.

Certain species are to be found in considerable numbers in most years, *Pelatachina tibialis* and *Lypha dubia* being usually common on hawthorn in May, while *Platymya fimbriata* and *Phryxe nemea* are normally plentiful throughout June, July and August. In the damp areas where *Tipula* species abound, *Siphona* species are often fairly numerous but accurate identification of these will necessitate the use of more recent literature than that employed here. Other tachinids catching the eye are *Eriothrix rufomaculata dimano*, which is abundant during August and September of most years and *Ernestia consobrina*, the latter species being probably the predominant representative of the tribe here, its congeners having been recorded somewhat less frequently. Probably Van Emden (1954) was not aware of the existence of the record for *E. consobrina* published in the Transactions of the North Staffs Field Club. (*op. cit.*), for he named southern and northern localities for the fly, but none for the north and central midlands. The record cited (Cannock, Staffs), together with the present one, suggest a more continuous distribution for this insect. Of the less common tachinids found, the most notable are *Allophorocera ferruginea* and *Wagneria gagatea*, the last named having been previously recorded from four localities only.

Morphologically, the tachinids discovered seem to vary little from normal, an exception being the earwig parasite *Digonochaeta spinipennis*, of which a specimen has been discovered with the greater part of the apical cross vein absent. Interestingly enough, this is also a characteristic feature of *Ocytata pallipes*, another fly with the same host.

#### Rhinophoridae

The small family Rhinophoridae contains flies having most interesting life histories, several being parasitic on woodlice. Three of these confirmed woolouse parasites, *Phyto discrepans*, *Rhinophora*

*lepida* and *Paykullia maculata* have been recently discovered in the valley and it is possible that careful observation of the numbers of these insects may in future yield useful information on the size of woodlouse populations which, given the ravages of Dutch Elm disease during the past 20 years, with the consequential presence of large amounts of dead timber, could well be expected to increase, with a proportional rise in the number of associated parasites. It is significant that Sutton (1972) notes that Beding found *P. maculata* to be the most common parasites of woodlice and this would lead one to expect it to be the species most frequently encountered in the field. Apparently this is not so, for Van Emden (*op. cit.*) records it as one of the rarer flies in this particular group, a contradiction that merits further investigation. In general, the flies are not particularly conspicuous or active in the field and an instance of interesting behaviour has been noticed when males of *Phyto discrepans* have been found on wooden fencing rails, for unlike the majority of other Diptera, they do not at once fly upwards into a tube placed over them, but tend to flatten themselves against the surface of the wood, which they leave with some reluctance.

#### Sarcophagidae

The subfamilies *Miltogramminae* and *Macronychiinae* with genera often having hymenopterous associations, have several representatives in the valley, some being conspicuous, while others are unlikely to be noticed without careful searching. Into the first category come *Metopia argyrocephala* with twinkling white orbits, *Miltogramma punctatum*, which is sometimes numerous in sandy places, occasionally in company with *Leucophora cinerea* (*Anthomyiidae*), while *Brachicoma devia*, in spite of close superficial resemblance to common sarcophagids, usually occurs in large enough numbers to find its way into the net on several occasions during a year. The second category includes *Macronychia ungulans*, which seems to be confined to woodlands glades and paths where it is elusive and scarce; *Ptychoneura cylindrica*, a small fly taken once on a fallen birch trunk and *Amobia signata*, which has been captured once on fallen timber and once on a woodland path. Certain sarcophagine species, notably *S. carnaria* and *S. incisilobata* are amongst the most frequently encountered flies in the locality, while *S. crassimargo*, *S. dissimilis* and *S. haemorrhoea* occur in some numbers on more marshy sites.

(To be continued)

LARVAE OF THE LEAST ARCHES: *NOLA CONFUSALIS* H.-S. AND *ROESLERSTAMMIA ERXLEBELLA* F. ON LIME. — It may be of interest to record that while beating flowers of *Tilia* sp. for *Eupithecia egenaria* H.-S. at Lynford, Norfolk on the 19th July 1981, in addition to *egenaria* larvae, I beat out from the blossoms about a dozen larvae of *Nola confusalis* and a number of larvae of *Roeslerstammia erxlebella*. The latter in due course produced moths, and the *confusalis* are at present in their characteristic boat-shaped cocoons. — J. L. FENN, 4 Pearces Close, Hochwald, Thetford, Norfolk.